

Daily Eagle

LIFE ON A HOUSEBOAT.

CHARMS OF EXISTENCE ON ONE OF THESE MOVABLE HOMES.

None of the Discomforts of Life in a Villa—Cook and Kitchen—Sleeping Accommodations—Interior Decorations and Comforts—At Night.

About six years ago a domicile on a houseboat was viewed in the light of an eccentricity. At the present time sixty or more of these movable homes fringe the edge of the Bucks shore, and with their brilliant drapery and flower garden fronts, impart color and animation to a town that was formerly accredited with drabness during 300 days in the year. Life on a houseboat offers many charms besides that of variety. We are most of us acquainted with the recommendations set forth in favor of life on a boat; the houseboat may claim to all of them, with the additional advantage of a facility for changing aspect, position, neighbors, and surroundings whenever a desire for fresh scenes and society arises. On a houseboat there is none of the discomforts of a semi-detached villa, and neither need for nor any possibility of many servants. Upon these latter the atmosphere of the river houses seems to exercise a happy influence.

COOK AND KITCHEN.

The difficulty of cook experiences when in town of sending up a dinner, unless her well-appointed kitchen be supplied with every modern invention and device, appears never to occur to her when on board a boat. There her sanctum of about four feet square, with utensils in proportionate limits, and the atmosphere of an interior, satisfy all the requirements of that under other circumstances, exacting woman. Is it that, like her betters, she has a sense of pleasure in discovering that she is possessed of undreamed of resources? Or is it the small excitement, shifting scene, and somewhat relaxed dignity of the surroundings of her employers awaken in her a feeling of community of interests. The cause is inappreciable, but the fact remains.

A second woman on board is in the accidental rather than the regular course of events, as a man's services prove more efficient in a boat which can rarely place more than two thirds of the disposal of the servants. The pantry for table requisites is equally limited, but then every glass and cup fits into its appointed groove; and when each thing has a place and duly fills it, there is no sense of overcrowding. The sleeping accommodation is in proportion to the economy, the arrangement of the berth being the same as those which prevail on yachts and steamers, everything done for the promotion of comfort and exclusion of superfluities. The drawing and dining rooms afford more scope for ornamentation. Turkey carpets impart a feeling of luxury; the velvet cushions of the couches are made movable, and do acceptable service in large and small. The tops of upright frames are easily converted into available stages, on which are placed photographs, pictures, and a variety of serviceable ornaments. Cabinets fit into every corner, and form receptacles for painting or sketching requisites and work.

THE BOAT ON BOARD.

In many instances a large and serviceable Japanese lantern hangs from the center of the ceiling flanked with Japanese fans. Palm leaves, Pampas grass and Mahoe branches are all available decorations, and much taste and ingenuity are shown in the arrangement of mirrors to double the proportions of the saloons. Few boats can boast of a room so spacious as that afforded by the roof or deck of a houseboat. Although the latter varies in size as much as in form and decoration, fifty and sixty feet in length are by no means unusual, and the social house life is mostly passed on these flat roofs, which are also the scene of numerous large and small entertainments. Some are entirely devoid of awnings, others have canopies represented by large Japanese umbrellas; but most of the larger boats show canvas, either arched or straight, stretching from stem to stern. Pendant from the center are baskets of flowers and numerous Japanese lanterns.

Entertainment without limit seems to be the order of river life; so long as the fine weather and presence of neighbors continue. As night draws near, and the twilight fades into the dusk which renders every surrounding object dim, the excursions on the water cease. Then each boat and barge puts forth its lights, and sketches of song with musical accompaniments are heard along the stretch of river. In the pines may occasionally be discerned the note of the corn-crake from the adjacent shore, or the distant sounds from neighboring town or village. It is often late before all the occupants of the boats sink into slumber, as the foundation to watch quiet river, sky and moon more alluring than the tiny boats below. Dress requirements are happily few, and those habituated to the river life may be distinguished by the simplicity of their attire. Plain skirts of serge or flannel are mostly adopted, with skirts of washing silk. The boat's colors are shown in the necktie, hat and vest, and the name on the silver buckle that clasps the latter—London Queen.

Reporting a Big Fire.

Mr. Dana, of The New York Sun, declares that the most difficult subject for a newspaper reporter to handle well is a big fire. It has, he says, so many varied and varying aspects; its cause must often be ascertained from lips that are panicky; its immediate and remote consequences must be noted; the companies in which the burned property was insured, the amounts of the several policies, and the extent of the damage to owners and tenants must be learned promptly and accurately; although most of the sufferers are loath to furnish such information, because the next morning they may wish to revise their estimates. Particularly when the fire occurs at night, and must be reported at once, is the task a difficult one. No good city editor would "kill" good descriptive matter about a big fire. Mr. Dana has experienced in reporting such an event was in Blocker street, in 1847, when ten or twelve buildings were burned.—Chicago Herald.

Cultivating the Lawn Beds.

The lawn beds about Overville, Cal., are now being utilized for agricultural purposes. A local paper says they are rapidly being turned into little orchards, vineyards and gardens, and comfortable homes are becoming numerous.—Chicago Times.

Sleeping Cars with Bath Rooms.

Well, it has been generally supposed that about all of the art and invention of the world in the matter of securing comfort for the railway traveler have their home in the United States, and particularly in Chicago, and yet up in British America last week I struck the nicest thing I ever saw on wheels. It was a sleeping car with a bath room. It is a nice tub and there is plenty of room, and all the hot or cold water a man wants, and everything nice, clean and cozy. The charge is only fifty cents, and during the two days that I was on the car there wasn't a passenger aboard who didn't have at least one bath a day. And every man and woman of them swore that the luxury would have been cheap and desirable at double the price. I believe Pullman could make money by putting bath tubs in all his cars, and just as soon as he gets to believing this way he'll put them in. I don't think the comfort for travelers that he can make about, but the profits, you know, as he's running his cars for all there is in them. A good bath tub would beat some of his gimcracks all to pieces, so far as real comfort is concerned. The Canada Pacific company has quite a number of sleeping cars fitted up with baths.—Chicago Herald.

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22-100 150 in cultivation, 30 acres tame grass, 10 acre timber, good house and stable, fenced, 12 acres in hog lots and cattle, good well, pump and wind mill, good orchard, good spring, 1 mile to school, three and a half miles to Derby, on railroad, fine farm, \$4,000, on good terms.

34-100 50 in cultivation, house and stable, 20 in pasture, fenced, 2 wells and creek good orchard, 6 rods to school, 7 1/2 miles to school, \$4,500, 1/2 cash.

37-100 150 in cultivation, house, stable and crib, nice young orchard, fenced, well, pump and wind mill, 1 1/2 miles to school, 1 1/2 miles to school, \$4,000, terms.

45-100 60 in cultivation, house, barn, crib and gr. i. r., 100 acre stock scale, nice young orchard, good wells, \$1,000, terms.

62-100 150 in cultivation, small house and stable, crib and gr. i. r., some fruit, 1 mile to school, 1 1/2 miles to railroad town, 10 miles to school, \$4,000.

73-100 200 in cultivation, 35 acres pasture, fenced, good house, barn and shed, 2 miles to school, 11 miles to school, \$12,000, 1/2 cash.

82-100 140 in cultivation, 60 acres of fruit, nice young orchard, 2 wells, 1/2 mile to school, 3 to one and 4 miles to school, very cheap, \$9,000, 1/2 cash.

90-200 120 in cultivation, house, stable and gr. i. r., good well and creek, 1 mile to school, 11 miles to school, good corn farm, \$7,500, terms.

108-100 80 in cultivation, house and stable, fruit and forest trees, fenced, 20 acres pasture, fenced, 1 1/2 miles to railroad town, 1/2 mile to school, \$5,000.

127-100 110 in cultivation, 35 acres pasture, fenced, house and barn, hog and cattle lots, 1/2 mile to school, 1/2 mile to school, fine view of the city, \$5,500, terms.

135-125 in cultivation, 2 acres timber, good house and barn, fenced, well, orchard, 5 miles to school, 9 miles to school, \$6,000.

143-100 100 in cultivation, house, barn and crib, fenced, 2 wells, orchard, 1 mile to school, 1 1/2 miles to school, 2 1/2 miles to railroad town, \$4,500, terms.

168-100 110 in cultivation, house, stable and crib, well, some fruit, 1/2 mile to school, 1/2 mile to school, 1/2 mile to school, \$2,500, terms.

221-100 50 in cultivation, house, gr. i. r., stable and crib, fenced and cross fenced, 20 acres pasture, fenced, 1 1/2 miles to school, 1 1/2 miles to school, 1 1/2 miles to school, \$2,500, on time.

221-80 50 in cultivation, house, smoke house, stable, gr. i. r., crib and fence, well, 1/2 mile to school, one and a fourth mile to school, 2 miles to school, 0.8 miles to railroad town, \$2,500, \$1,000 on time.

270-100 70 in cultivation, house, stable, crib and 20 acres, fenced lots and fenced, good orchard, 2 1/2 miles to school, \$4,000, terms.

272-120 120 in cultivation, well improved, all fenced and all watered, fine grain and stock farm, 3 1/2 miles to railroad town, two-thirds of it bottom, \$2,000, terms.

274-178 100 in cultivation, fenced and cross fenced, good house, stable and crib, fine view of good fruit, good well, \$5,000, terms.

276-100 90 in cultivation, good house and barn, young orchard, 3 miles to Goddard, \$3,000.

281-100 50 in cultivation, 1-room house, stable, pasture to school, 3 miles to railroad town, \$4,000, terms.

293-400 suitable for subdividing, three miles from Wichita, price and terms on application.

293-200 50 in cultivation, house and stable, 200 acres pasture, good well, 9 miles from Wichita, special bargain, \$7,000, 1/2 cash.

298-100 100 in cultivation, house, stable, crib and 20 acres, fenced, bearing orchard, 1/2 mile to school, 4 miles to Goddard and Garden Plains, special bargain, \$4,500, \$1,200 1/2 cash.

303-100 110 in cultivation, house, stable and crib, hedged into 40 acre fields, bearing orchard, 1 mile to school, 4 miles to railroad town, \$5,500.

341-230 250 in cultivation, small house, Kansas, 1 mile to school, 4 miles to Derby, very fine farm, \$9,000, terms.

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